



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
July 2020 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 29, Issue 7



Guest Speaker—Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Southeastern Division Director



Find out more at our online GARS meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm!

# Message from the President

Field Day 2020 is in the books and was definitely one to remember. It was certainly unique but had many positive things to look back on.

It looks like we had more friendly competition among GARS members thanks to the W4GR.com summary page with the near real time totals thanks to our Field Day Chairman, David Adcock (KA4KKF). Using the N3FJP Field Day Logging software configured to report our QSOs, everyone could see how we were progressing in total and individually. This was a nice feature added by the author of the N3FJP software, Scott Davis. This could prove extremely useful for other contests where we can add our scores together for GARS.

Thinking back to previous years, we probably had a similar number of people operating during the 24-hour period, but it looks like each person operated longer than they would have from our traditional 8A station at the park. Operating from home allowed us to operate as long or as often as we pleased all from the comforts of home. Looking at our top scorers, they must have operated around the clock. Digital really played a part in high QSO totals especially with FT8 and FT4.

Looking at just the QSO points, our final total was 4,607 compared to 2,987 from last year. I understand that some QSOs from our expert CW operators were not reported on the webpage, but will add more to our total expected to exceed 5,000 with the logs submitted to ARRL on behalf of Gwinnett ARS.

So what does that mean for future Field Days? Your guess is as good as mine with all the unknowns out there. Will COVID-19 or some other virus be a factor next year or will things return to normal (or a new normal)? Maybe a hybrid operation will be the rage with a club station operating from a park and others operating from home if the aggregation of points is allowed.



**“So what does that mean for future Field Days? Your guess is as good as mine with all the unknowns out there.”**

What will be the rules for Field Day 2021 or other operating events like Winter Field Day and the Georgia QSO Party? Time will tell, but please share your thoughts on this Field Day and your experiences on [GARS@groups.io](mailto:GARS@groups.io) or our new Discord chat channels.

Regardless of what the future holds, Field Day 2020 is one for the record books and will always be one to remember. We will soon be receiving our “I survived Field Day 2020” t-shirts (thanks, Ralph) and can wear them with pride for the next year.

Look for the announcement for our July online GARS Meeting soon and see you soon.

73,

**WB4QDX, Club  
President**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Adams".

**"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."**

[Author Unknown]



# GARS July Meeting and Workshop

Update from the ARRL  
Southeastern Division Director

by Mickey Baker, N4MB

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:00 pm

Oscilloscopes

by Kevin Scott, K4GTR

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 7:00 pm

**GARS Meetings and Workshops  
will be held online until further notice.  
See <http://www.gars.org> for more information.**

## INSIDE

GARS Happenings.....	Pg 4
Local VE Testing Sessions.....	Pg 6
In Other News .....	Pg 7
Net Manager's Corner .....	Pg 9
GARS Membership Page.....	Pg 10
Mtg / Workshop Minutes.....	Pg 12
Contests and Hamfests .....	Pg 13
GARS Event Schedule .....	Pg 14
VE Testing / Schedules .....	Pg 15

## **GARS Communications**

<b>2 Meter Repeaters</b> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<b>6 Meter Repeater</b> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<b>1.25 Meter Repeater</b> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	<b>Other Resources:</b> <b>APRS</b> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<b>70 Cm Repeaters</b> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<b>D-STAR</b> <b>WD4STR</b> 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4Z XV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



# GARS Happenings

## 20 Years ago in the July 2000 GARzette:

- This month's "On The Air" features Larry Tews, N8IAA;
- Mike K4HBI discusses the generosity of GARS members donating to the "Can-A-Thon";
- Highlights from several events, including 2000 GARS Field Day, Memorial Day Parade, Buford 5K Run, and Venture 73 events;
- Mike K4HBI shows us his homebrew project, the "Toilet Seat Tuner".

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>



73, Bill, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



# THANK YOU

**To Our Doctors, Nurses, First Responders,  
and Public Safety Officers On The Front Lines**

## GARS HELP WANTED

- GARzette Editor — Looking for someone to become the next GARzette Editor, starting off as a GARzette Committee member / Assistant Editor. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be nice, but any experience with Microsoft Office products is helpful. You will be trained in the use of Microsoft Publisher. Most of the content is supplied by others, but occasionally you may wish to write content, especially in your area of expertise. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eggers, WB2RIS at [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org).

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and help from club members is needed.

[PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

# GARS Happenings (Cont'd)

## Member Recognition

Bob K4VBM earned a "TARHEEL Spelling Bee Sweep" coffee mug for his participation in the NC QSO Party.

Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN and Ruth Willet, KM4LAO gave presentations in the June 24 Virtual YOTA Day 2020 (see video at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=G2PX1f20ZT4>):

- Audrey: "Up, Up, and Away! A Medium Altitude Balloon Launch with APRS", at about 32 minutes into video
- Ruth: "History, Tips, and Awards for Satellite Operation" at about 4:00 into video

Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN and Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, are scheduled to present in the August 8-9 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo.

- Audrey's topic is "Getting Girls Involved in STEM, Specifically Amateur Radio!"
- Jack will discuss hot-air ballooning in "Highly Flying Kids with HAB"

Congratulations to all!

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS GARzette Editor

Sources: Virtual YOTA Day 2020 information from Daily DX email  
QSO Today Expo: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2020-07-09>  
Others from GARS mailing list

## Field Day

FD 2020 has come and gone. It was a special field day this year. GARS did not have an 8A station. We are not having meetings and get togethers. We are doing online go to meetings and nets.

We have 28 entries so far for Gwinnett ARS. Our scores are much higher this year for the number of QSOs. Our QSO points will be north of 5000. The final score will add in the bonus points and be in the December QST.

We tried something new this year. We kept a web page updated on log entries. N3FJP logging software will let you post your contacts to a web page and we can collect them to see who is running away with the contact. You have to have internet and use N3FJP software to participate. W3DJS made 360 contacts and I tried to catch him. Sid, N4NQ and Jamie, KX4HA were also trying to catch me. Most of the time we were operating FT-8 or FT-4 or PSK-31.

Digital modes were hot on all the bands.

You can see the status at [www.w4gr.com/FD/2020FD-status.html](http://www.w4gr.com/FD/2020FD-status.html)

It was a fun time this year working from the home station. I doubt if the ARRL will do this again. There are other contests they use club scores in. If the club wants to continue the web pages, We will setup rules and standards for each contest.

I think you will enjoy the N3FJP software. Scott works hard to keep up the 100 applications. It has a lifetime upgrade and all new loggers he develops for a decent price. I run his suite of programs and the Club also runs the suite of programs. Its windows base only. I think you will enjoy it if you like to contest. He also has a general logging program.

If you have not upgraded to General, you have 1 year to get it done. We do not know what the new year will bring. But we can have fun operating on the radio and make contacts.

73,

*David*, KA4KKF, GARS Field Day Chairman

**Field Day experiences shared by other GARS members: [Thanks Steve, KN4VCQ and Bob, K4CQO - Ed.]**

**Steve, KN4VCQ:** As the ARRL bulletin implied, this was a very unique year for Field Day "... unlike those in recent decades..." given the at-home operations for most of us. For me, it was also my first Field Day. Recently licensed last July, my plan was to participate this year as an observer to learn about the hobby and 'ease into' HF. Well, that changed given the current situation with Covid-19. While I decided to go it alone at home, it didn't feel like I was alone given the support I received from other GARS members via the email group and Discord chats. Special shoutout to KA4KKF, WA4HNL, and

(Continued on page 12)

# Local VE Testing Sessions

## North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL)

The VE Team will be holding its first exam session since February this Saturday, July 11. [The next session is scheduled for August 8th. Check <http://www.nfarl.org/testSessions.html> for more information. - Ed.] All license class exams will be available. The exam session will be held at Slopes BBQ, 34 Crossville Road, Roswell, GA, 30075. Hours are 9:00 - 11:00 AM.

The exam fee is \$15 cash. Other Details:

Seating limited to 8 candidates.

No walk-ins accepted.

Pre-registration via email to [nv4c.ian@gmail.com](mailto:nv4c.ian@gmail.com) required. Phone reservations not accepted.

Please do NOT register if you are not sure you will make it. Seating is limited and we want to be sure everyone who wants to test can do so.

Registration will close at 11:59 PM on Thursday, July 9. That gives Ian time to know what to expect Saturday, and accommodate replacements for cancellations.

Masks required. No mask, no admittance.

Enter the building via the side entrance.

Please pre-register with the FCC for an FCC Registration Number at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

Please pre-fill and bring the NCVEC Quick Form 605, found at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/605%20Form\\_2020\\_Fully%20Interactive.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/605%20Form_2020_Fully%20Interactive.pdf)

Please also bring the following:

Government-issued photo ID

Pen and pencil

If upgrading, copy of current license

Calculator (as stand-alone device) if you want to use one

Source: <http://www.nfarl.org/testSessions.html>

## Stephens County Amateur Radio Society

VE session (July 25, 2020) from 1 till 4 pm in Lavonia GA at 1240 E. Main St, at the white gazebo. [Lavonia, GA is off I-85 near the Georgia / North Carolina border... - Ed.]

If you need to test please get a hold of us at ( [kr4cw1@gmail.com](mailto:kr4cw1@gmail.com) ). We are working on a 2nd test session , if you would like to be apart of it please send us a contact email to club email and will be glad to help you on the prelist of this....

We will be giving All Test ( Tech, General, Extra ) Cost will be \$15.00 must have ID and copy of License, if your upgrading...if it's your first time taking a test please go to the FCC website and sign up for a FRN number and create your Account. Here is the link to get started: <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/regEntityType.do>

Please make sure you print this off and bring with you, so you will have your FRN number. Without this we can not submit your test.

Source: <http://www.sc-ars.org/>

# In Other News

## Introducing The ARRL Current

ARRL has a new way to let members know when the digital editions of QST and other publications are available. Distributed via email, The ARRL Current offers a monthly overview of ARRL publications and member benefits. The inaugural edition launched in June.

Subscribe now to receive each issue going forward. Manage your email preferences from your ARRL account (members must first be registered on the ARRL website).

Go to the Edit Email Subscriptions page, select The ARRL Current, and then click Save. The next issue should show up in your inbox on Friday, July 10.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/introducing-the-arrr-current>



## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Announces Full Lineup of Speakers

The first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Saturday and Sunday, August 8 – 9, has confirmed what it's calling "a packed lineup of over 70 great speakers" for the ARRL-sanctioned event. Attendance is free and [registration](#) is open.

Presentations will cover a range of topics, with two tracks focused on providing hands-on, practical advice for those just getting started in amateur radio. Steve Johnston, WD8DAS, will demonstrate basic soldering techniques for repairing equipment and building projects. Marcel Stieber, AI6MS, will offer an overview of common battery types, discussing the pros and cons of each — including battery chemistry, common uses and misuses, and everyday application tips.

For experienced operators, topics will cover new techniques, equipment upgrading, 3D printing, and more. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, will attempt to answer the question, "Is 3 dB Worth a Divorce?" and cover a wide range of antenna topics. Jim Vetch, WA2EIJ, will explain how to build a QRP radio. In his presentation, "The Slot Antenna — Undiscovered Country for Most Hams," John Portune, W6NBC, will demonstrate how a satellite TV dish can be "slotted" to make an effective outdoor 2-meter or UHF antenna for use in antenna-restricted neighborhoods.

Prominent youth educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, will moderate a lineup featuring amateur radio's future leaders. Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, will speak on, "Getting Girls Involved in STEM, Specifically Amateur Radio!" while hot-air ballooning will be the focus of a talk by Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, "Highly Flying Kids with HAB."

QSO Today's Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, says that one challenge to any ham radio convention, whether in person or virtual, is keeping the content of presentations from becoming overly complicated and overwhelming. "For our inaugural virtual Expo, we've made sure that there are great speakers for both beginners and experienced hams," Guth said. "We've asked all of our speakers to be laser focused on their topics while providing hands-on, practical advice." Each presentation will wrap up with a live question-and-answer session.

For more information or to register, visit the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo website](#). Attendance is free, and there are early bird prize incentives for registering by July 24.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/qso-today-virtual-ham-expo-announces-full-lineup-of-speakers>



# In Other News (cont'd)

## Radio Amateur's Call for Help Relayed from across the Atlantic

When Richard Tashner, N2EO, of Massapequa, New York, suffered a medical emergency on May 18, his DMR radio was closer than his phone. His call for help was answered by Maxis Johnston, GM0MRJ, who put out a call for "anyone in the states."

Kent County Amateur Radio Club member Ken Dix, KB2KBD, in Delaware heard the call on the local 146.91 MHz repeater, which was linked to the North American talk group. Dix called authorities in Tashner's vicinity, and help was dispatched.

Dix said the dispatcher in New York was able to hear part of the call and was amazed at how an amateur radio communication had gone from New York to Scotland to Delaware and then back to New York. The dispatcher expressed surprise at how quickly the information had been relayed across the Atlantic. The Delaware repeater, at the Delaware State Communications complex, is set on C4FM Fusion and linked to DMR on "America's Net." — *Thanks to the ARES E-Letter via Jerry Palmer, N3KRX*

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-amateur-s-call-for-help-relayed-from-across-the-atlantic>



## Video Explains the Mission and Purpose of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)

The video "[What is IARU?](#)" is now available on the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 website.

"This video explains the mission and roles of IARU to represent, develop, and defend frequencies for amateur radio around the world," IARU Region 2 explains. "It also describes the regional organizations and the critical roles of its more than 160 member-societies."

The English-language presentation was developed by the IARU Administrative Committee and approved at its meeting last October in Lima, Peru. The short video, available in English and Spanish, was produced by IARU Region 2 Director Carlos Beviglia, LU1BCE, and Fernando Gomez Rojas, LU1ARG. The videos are available in MP4 format.

IARU Region 2 encourages member-societies and radio clubs to use the videos to explain the role and mission of IARU to amateurs, regulators, and others.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/video-explains-the-mission-and-purpose-of-the-international-amateur-radio-union-iaru>



# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only SEVEN primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN	Bill - KK4AUA
David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ
Russell - AB4QQ		

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ*

GARS Net Manager

# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in June

None

New Members: 0

Total Members as of June 30, 2020  
342

Join GARS members for our weekly breakfast gathering at 7:30 AM most Saturdays  
at

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

(Suspended until further notice)  
[Directions](#)

The following members are celebrating birthdays in July:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  
From All of Us at GARS**

**Gary Beckstedt (KN4VTA)**  
**Mark Bell (N7GRB)**  
**Harold Brown (KI4FPR)**  
**Neil Cleveland (WB4OXY)**  
**Hope Collier**  
**John Davis (WB4QDX)**  
**Jim Gaffney (K4YNA)**  
**Sarah Harden (KK4WEM)**  
**James Hinkle (AG4ON)**  
**Ray Kaplan (KA9GJL)**  
**Yubin Lin (KM4TVY)**  
**Fisher Londono (KN4FWN)**  
**Ralph Matchette (KE4IHD)**  
**Rick Morris (KD4VOJ)**  
**Lew Newlin (KM4YWK)**  
**Brian Page (N4TRB)**  
**Robert Pence (KM4AAP)**  
**Charles Roberts (K4HFO)**  
**Ron Rogers (WW8RR)**  
**Bill Van Duynhoven (KE4TVA)**  
**Courtney Wagner (KN4GZI)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ,  
Ivette Santiago, KN4OYE , Cathy Kelley, KN4DML

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Repeater Status

6M	Currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

### Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Amazon Smiles;
- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit  
<http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

### GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved to Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:  
<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:  
<http://gars.org/facebook>



Follow GARS on Twitter:  
<http://gars.org/twitter>



Join GARS on YouTube:  
<http://gars.org/youtube>

### G A R S Volunteers

### OFFICERS

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

### MANAGERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Glen Wendt, TechFest Chair	W3WWT	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Joe Biddle, Winter Field Day Chair	AD4PZ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	
Don Stewart, Elmer Manager	KW4AL	
Dave Slotter, Georgia QSO Party Chair, Workshop Leader and Public Information Officer	W3DJS	

### DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA		Rick Cobb, N4XYY	
Mike Weathers, ND4V		Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee	

## GARS MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES

### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society – GENERAL Meeting Minutes—6/9/2020

**President John Davis (WB4QDX) and Opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 8:30pm (Covid-19 Alternative Online)**

**Online participants:** ~56

**Treasurer Report:** Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) – read the financial report.

**Membership Report:** John reported the Membership is at [ 344 ].

**Programs – Randy (N4COR)** the programs lineup:

- July - TBD

**GARS Workshop - Dave (W3DJS)** outlined the next workshop for programming radios with Chirp.

- June - GARS Field Day Setup by David Adcock, KA4KKF
- July - TBD

**GARS Education – Ralph (KJ4CNC)** mentioned:  
All activities cancelled due to Covid-19.

**Program** – Quickly Coil Your Cables With a Spooler You Can Make by **Joe Biddle, AD4PZ**

Submitted by: **Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) GARS Secretary**

[Note: Minutes are published as they are recorded.  
Event information may be incorrect.—Ed.]

(No June Workshop minutes available)

*(Field Day, continued from page 5)*

W3DJS for answering my newbie questions and helping to make the whole day a ton of fun.

Here are a couple things I learned:

- Operating on HF with a basic G5RV JR strung up across the top of my house was a hoot - couldn't believe I was able to get QSOs in every state on up and down Atlantic coast from Florida to Vermont (sad I didn't get Delaware or Maine) and out west including California and Arizona.
- While I missed the group face-to-face fellowship, I operated a lot for a first timer - pretty much the entire period except for a 3 hour nap Sunday morning. The firehose experience forced me to learn things about operating and my rig I never imagined I needed to know (I can now customize a filter or a notch on my 7100).
- I was able to prove out the utilities on my Raspberry Pi (Thanks again W3DJS) - I used the Pi for all logging and radio support.
- Watch the weather dummy - I had been monitoring weather radar all evening, but I miscalculated how quickly the Saturday afternoon thunder boomers were heading toward my QTH. I lost power briefly just BEFORE I disconnected and shut down. I was fortunate not to lose any log entries (or worse).

In short, FD2020 was a blast and hooked me on the HF side of Amateur Radio. Now to get a more permanent antenna solution going.

**Bob, K4CQO:** Well, my contacts are going to be at the bottom, but I really did enjoy it -- first time operating on Field Day, and realized why I generally do not do contests -- and noticed that my areal, which wraps around my gazebo does well to the NE states, and also goes south and can go west. I got out of field day what I expected, so I am very happy with my 12 contacts!!

**Bill, WB2RIS:** I operated inside from my home QTH, with a Little Tarheel HP mounted on my car. The coax and control cable were routed through the window into my living room. I cut up a pool noodle to route the cables through the window and keep the bugs out.

I used N3FJP for logging, and the RigBlaster Plug and Play for my FT-857D to key CW from N3FJP to my K3.

I tried the latest version of WSJT-X, set up for Field Day, to make some contacts in both FT4 and FT8. I had difficulty with this app, and it was missing certain features present in previous versions. After logging contacts, if I restarted WSJT-X, a message pops up, saying "Error Scanning ADIF Log, Invalid ADIF header". Not good, considering WSJT-X is creating the ADIF.

The app crashed twice, one time right in the middle of a QSO. After about 10 QSO's I abandoned using this app. I made the most contacts in CW, using "Search and Pounce", and a few macros defined in N3FJP, so I could confirm the exchange and call once or twice before I replied. If I can improve my CW copying skills, I might be able to call CQ and make more contacts. I believe I could have made many more contacts just by using CW mode earlier on. I also made several SSB contacts. It was difficult competing with bigger stations to be noticed. The DVR option on my K3 came in handy. I made about 100 contacts in total to 42 sections (including 2 Canadian provinces and PR). I also copied the ARRL bulletin Sunday morning in all 3 digital modes (RTTY, PSK31 and MFSK16), just to be sure.

## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar  
> For more information click the links <

### July 2020

11-12 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

### August 2020

1-2 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)  
15-16 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)  
16 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

### September 2020

12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)  
12-14 [September VHF](#)  
19-20 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

### October 2020

10-11 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)  
19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)

### November 2020

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)  
21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)  
28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

### December 2020

4-6 [160 Meter](#)  
12-13 [10 Meter](#)  
20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

### January 2021

1 [Straight Key Night](#)  
2 [Kid's Day](#)  
2-3 [RTTY Roundup](#)  
16-18 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

### February 2021

8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)  
20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

### March 2021

6-7 [International DX– Phone](#)

### April 2021

11 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

(no ARRL contests in May)

### June 2021

12-14 [June VHF](#)  
19 [Kid's Day](#)  
26-27 [Field Day](#)

For more information:  
<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

**07/25/2020**

### [WCARS Hamfest \(CANCELLED\)](#)

Location: Waynesville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm>

**08/08/2020 - 08/09/2020**

### [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#)

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: KEG Media, Inc. dba QSO Today

Website: <http://qsotodayhamexpo.com>

**08/22/2020 - 08/23/2020**

### [Huntsville Hamfest - ARRL Southeastern](#)

### [Division Convention \(CANCELLED\)](#)

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

**11/07/2020 - 11/08/2020**

### [Stone Mountain Hamfest, ARRL GA Section](#)

### [Convention \(CANCELLED\)](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Alford Memorial Radio Club & Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.stonemountainhamfest.com/>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



## GARS Events Calendar for 2020

TechFest ( <a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a> )	January 18
Winter Field Day	January 25&26
General HamCram	TBD
<b>Dog Show Fundraiser</b>	<b>Cancelled for 2020</b>
Georgia QSO Party	April 11 (home ops)
North metro area Fox Hunt	April
<b>Memorial Day Parade</b>	<b>Cancelled for 2020</b>
<b>ARC/KARC Hamfest</b>	<b>Cancelled for 2020</b>
Field Day	June 27&28
Tech HamCrams	<b>Mar (canceled), Nov</b>
JOTA	October
Maker Faire	TBD
Stone Mt. Hamfest	November 7&8
Holiday Party	December

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting (**online until further notice**)
- ◆ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop (**online until further notice**)
- ◆ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm (**suspended until further notice**): [GARS Ham Exam Session](#)  
Fire Station #24  
2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd  
Buford, GA 30519
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am (**suspended until further notice**):  
GARS Weekly Breakfast  
Golden Corral Restaurant  
2155 Riverside Parkway,  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

### August GARS Meeting:

**HamPi – The Raspberry Pi Ham Radio Software Collection**  
by Dave Slotter, W3DJS

### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 28	June 29	June 30	1	2	3	4 <b>HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
		7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net				5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
<b>GARS VE Team Testing Session (Canceled)</b>	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting ( <b>Online</b> )				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
26	27	28	29	30	31	August 1 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>

## Metro Testing Sessions

[Please check with each session contact for current status.—Ed.]

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)  
VEC: WCARS  
Braselton Public Utility Building  
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA  
Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T  
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560  
[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
VEC: WCARS  
Hall County EOC  
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.  
Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD  
(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM  
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center  
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK  
E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL  
9:30 am (Walk-ins welcome)  
Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge  
840 VFW Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
Email: [fhaynes@vatmom.net](mailto:fhaynes@vatmom.net)  
(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm  
Fire Station #24  
Mall of Georgia Boulevard  
Buford, GA 30519  
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

VEC: WCARS and W5YI  
2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg  
66 McElroy Street  
Winder, GA 30680  
Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI  
(404) 281-6581  
E-mail: [W4WYI@ARRL.net](mailto:W4WYI@ARRL.net)  
(cont. next column)

## Ham Exam Results

### June Results

No June VE Session

[Other local clubs are starting to hold limited VE sessions. See the articles on Page 6 in this issue of the GARzette for more details. — Ed.]

GARS VE Team Leaders  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:  
<http://gars.org/exams>



### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC  
7 pm @ United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville  
Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech  
VanLeer Elec. Building  
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.  
For more information go to  
[www.w4aql.com](http://www.w4aql.com) and click on "Test Sessions"

## Metro Club Meetings

[Please check with each club for meeting schedule and method (online, etc.) - Ed.]

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC  
Fire Station #1, Training Room  
112 Haynes Street, Marietta, GA  
Meeting begins at 7:00pm  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta, GA  
Meeting is at 7:30pm  
Talk In -146.820(-)

### N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library  
1344 South Broad Street, Commerce, GA  
Meeting is at 6:30pm  
Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00pm

Sawnee Amateur Radio Association  
Beaver Toyota  
1875 Buford Highway, Cumming, GA  
Meeting at 6:30

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
Annistown Road Baptist Church  
Annistown Rd & Spain Rd  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club  
Board Room of The Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA  
at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League  
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept.  
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA  
meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.gars.org/>

[Note: No store access; curbside delivery available until further notice. - Ed.]

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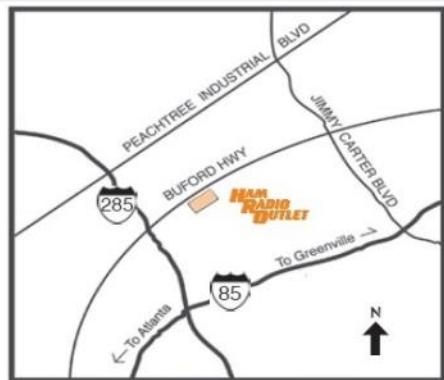
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